

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/286,906

Applicant(s)

MISAWA, ATSUSHI

Examiner

LUONG T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2622

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 2/24/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5, 10-11, 13, 22-23, 25 (renumbered as 1-7, respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20060514.
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



**LUONG T. NGUYEN**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Catherine M. Voisinet on 5/12/2006.

2. The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 10 (line 6), "a matter touching" has been changed to --a hand of an operator touching--.

Claim 11 (line 2), "a hand of an operator" has been changed to --the hand of the operator--.

Claim 13 (line 13), "wherein the display includes" has been changed to --wherein the display of the monitor includes--.

Claim 13 (line 13), "a marginal area on the display" has been changed to --a marginal area on the display of the monitor--.

Claim 13 (line 14), "the operator" has been changed to --an operator--.

Claim 22 (line 3), "the recording medium" has been changed to --a recording medium--.

Claim 22 (line 16), "display in the monitor" has been changed to --display on the monitor--.

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Claim 22 (line 19), “the selected gripping manner ” has been changed to --the gripping manner--.

Claim 25 (line 2), “for the respective capturing” has been changed to --for respective capturing--.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 5, 10-11, 13, 22-23, 25 are allowed.

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 5, the prior art of the record fail to show or fairly suggest a camera comprising wherein, in the recording mode, the display controller determines an area on the monitor covered with a hand of an operator by the touch panel and bounds the first area on the monitor such that the first area excludes the covered area, in combination with other limitations of the claim.

Regarding claim 10, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest a camera comprising a display controller for determining, by the touch panel, an area on the monitor hidden by a hand of an operator touching the touch panel, and controlling the monitor to display the image of an area on the monitor excluding the hidden area, in combination with other limitations of the claim.

Claim 11 is allowable for the reasons given in claim 10.

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Regarding claim 13, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest a camera comprising wherein the display of the monitor includes a third area wherein the third area is a marginal area on the display of the monitor in which no image data appears and thereby provides a gripping area for an operator during the recording mode, in combination with other limitations of the claim.

Regarding claim 22, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest a camera comprising a display controller to selectively switch between the first display mode and the second display mode in accordance with the gripping manner in the recording mode and the gripping manner in the reproducing mode, in combination with other limitations of the claim.

Claims 23, 25 are allowable for the reasons given in claim 22.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID L. OMETZ can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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5/14/06



**LUONG T. NGUYEN**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**